

April 12, 2021

Dear Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee,

Re: AA10.3 Toronto Ravine Strategy Update and Developing Economic Opportunities for Indigenous Businesses

I am writing to express my support for the City of Toronto efforts regarding Indigenous economic opportunities through the Toronto Ravine Strategy. I understand this topic will be discussed at the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee on April 16th, 2021, and wish to share the following information for your consideration, and to potentially contribute to the discussions.

I am a Landscape Architect and Registered Professional Planner, and a Sessional Professor with Ryerson University's School of Urban and Regional Planning, as well as the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, University of Toronto. As someone of mixed settler/Mi'kmaq ancestry, I strive to prioritize Indigenous-led initiatives and voices in my teaching and practice. From 2017 – 2019, I led the Landscape Architecture team at the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), and initiated and co-founded the Nikibii Dawadinna Giigwag ('Flooded Valley Healing') Indigenous youth employment and training program (an Elder-led program now at the Daniels Faculty). I actively pressed for opportunities for Indigenous voices in the public realm planning and design for projects, including The Meadoway, TRCA's new Headquarters, and the TRCA Trails Strategy.

I was fortunate to meet Edith George and Carolyn King, former Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and through my teaching, to support having this important living landmark on The Carrying Place Trail recognized as a Heritage Toronto tree. And recently, I participated in a tour of the proposed First Nations Park location with a TRCA representative and the local school board Trustees, where we discussed the importance of having not just one park in the north end of the city close to the Humber River, but parks in all four of the Cardinal directions – ideally close to high schools for educational purposes. I have been thinking about Māori friends working as Indigenous Guardians for projects, where they are involved with cultural and environmental site work, and working with Elders and Knowledge Keepers and local Indigenous communities. There is such untapped potential through work focused on Land and Water across TRCA's jurisdiction, a large part of which is located in the City of Toronto!

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly, if you wish to discuss ways I can support the City's efforts to develop Indigenous economic opportunities with the Toronto Ravine Strategy. I can be reached at my cell: 647-899-5891, or email: sheila.boudreau@ryerson.ca.

Sincerely,



Sheila Boudreau, RPP, MCIP, OALA (with seal), CSLA
Sessional Professor